

# EXPERIENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROPOWER IN TASMANIA

When you visit Waddamana Power Station Heritage Site you will step back in time to the beginning of the industrial age in Tasmania. Waddamana is one of the few early 20th century power stations in the Southern Hemisphere where the original machines remain intact and largely untouched.

You will tour the turbine hall with its mighty Pelton wheel turbines, and explore exhibits that tell the compelling stories of endeavour and determination that brought a dream to powerful reality. The historic photographs, artefacts and personal memories in the history room will provide an insight into life in the early days of the station and village.

The Steps of Power walking trail provides a glimpse into the site's vanished places including the chance to look up at the penstocks where workers of yesteryear carved away the hillside and set the pipes by hand.



## VISIT US

**High season**, 1 December to 30 April: open daily from 10am until 4pm

**Low season**, 1 May to 30 November: open Wednesday to Sunday and public holidays from 10am until 4pm

Closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Good Friday

**Admission is free.**

The power station is located at the halfway point of the Highlands Power Trail, a self-drive journey through the Great Lake Power Scheme. We recommend you allow approximately 1 hour to spend at the heritage site. There are no catering facilities at Waddamana, however you may wish to bring supplies and relax in the picnic and barbecue area.

## CONTACT US

Main Road, Waddamana, TAS 7030

T 03 6259 6120 or 1300 360 441 (business hours)

E [waddamana@hydro.com.au](mailto:waddamana@hydro.com.au)

[waddamanapowerstation.com.au](http://waddamanapowerstation.com.au)



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# WADDAMANA POWER STATION

HERITAGE SITE

A BOLD VISION BROUGHT TO LIFE:  
EXPERIENCE THE HISTORY OF  
HYDROPOWER IN TASMANIA





# EXPERIENCE THE MARVEL OF AN EARLY 20TH CENTURY HYDROPOWER STATION

In the early 1900s in the rugged Central Highlands a bold vision was brought to life, changing the shape of Tasmania and building a foundation for what was to become Australia's largest generator of renewable energy, Hydro Tasmania.



McAULAY



GILLIES



BUTTERS

Waddamana Power Station was commissioned in 1916. The station was the centrepiece of Australia's first major hydro-electric scheme, and heralded the arrival of the industrial age for Tasmania.

The station and the broader Great Lake Power Scheme were developed through the extraordinary vision of three men, who saw the potential to harness the rivers and lakes of the rugged landscape to generate electricity: physicist Professor Alexander McAulay, metallurgist James Gillies and engineer John Butters.

The development began in 1910 as a private venture however the project was hampered by a number of challenges. The remote location, an extremely severe winter in 1912 and the First World War saw the Tasmanian government take control two years later. The Hydro-Electric Department was established to continue the ambitious project.

Building a power scheme in this isolated region was difficult, with limited access for workers, supplies and equipment. However resilience and determination prevailed, and Waddamana Power Station was officially opened with great ceremony by Governor General Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson on 6 May 1916.

## BRINGING POWER TO TASMANIA

Waddamana initially powered heavy industry and some 300 homes in the Hobart region. As demand for electricity grew, 'the Hydro' responded to meet this need with additional generators, a new larger dam constructed at Miena and an additional powerhouse at nearby Shannon. A second 'B' station was built at Waddamana between 1941 and 1949.

These later developments brought an influx of migrant workers to the Central Highlands, sharing customs and traditions that enriched and shaped the local community.

